

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8629

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: "CONSTITUTION" OF THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
AFGHANISTAN PROCLAIMS A BELIEF IN PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-
LENINISM

1. SUMMARY. WE HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF A DARI LANGUAGE DOCUMENT ENTITLED "CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA)," WHICH SETS FORTH THE IDEOLOGY AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THAT PARTY. THE DOCUMENT, IF VALID, WOULD LEAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE PDPA IS A MARXIST-LENINIST BODY, AND IS PRO-SOVIET. WE BELIEVE THAT THE "CONSTITUTION" IS A GENUINE PARTY DOCUMENT, BUT WE ARE UNSURE OF ITS DATE. WE ARE FAIRLY CERTAIN THE DOCUMENT PREDATES THE COUP TWO MONTHS AGO, AND CONCEIVABLY IT IS THE PDPA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENT DATING FROM 1965. WHATEVER THE CASE, IT CONSTITUTES ONE FURTHER INDICATION THAT THE ORGANIZATION NOW WIELDING POLITICAL POWER IN THIS COUNTRY IS A PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST TYPE POLITICAL PARTY. THE EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION IS BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSES.*END SUMMARY.

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2. ARTICLE ONE OF THE "CONSTITUTION" PULLS NO PUNCHES AS IT STATES THAT THE PDPA'S "IDEOLOGY IS THE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF MARXISM-LENINISM." FURTHERMORE, ARTICLE FIVE STATES THAT EVERY PARTY MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR "LEARNING THE POLITICAL THEORIES OF MARXISM-LENINISM." SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF MOHAMMAD DAUD, THE CURRENT AFGHAN LEADERSHIP HAS REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT THE PDPA IS A COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION. ADDITIONALLY, IN HIS NUMEROUS

INTERVIEWS WITH INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS, PRIME MINISTER NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI HAS CLAIMED THAT ACCUSATIONS THAT THE PDPA IS A COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE STEMMED FROM "INTERNATIONAL REACTIONARY CIRCLES." THE PARTY'S OWN DOCUMENT, HOWEVER, WOULD RENDER THESE POSITIONS UNTENABLE.

3. THE "PDPA CONSTITUTION" PROMULGATES A PARTY STRUCTURE -- BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM" (ARTICLE 7) -- IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT OF COMMUNIST PARTIES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD: A CELL IS THE "PRIMARY PARTY ORGANIZATION"; A CONGRESS IS THE SUPREME PARTY AUTHORITY AND MEETS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS; A CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS SUPREME BETWEEN SESSIONS OF THE CONGRESS, AND "LEADS AND DIRECTS" THE PARTY DURING THESE PERIODS; A POLITICAL BUREAU RUNS THE PARTY BETWEEN CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUMS; AND, A CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT TQEG CARE OF THE PARTY'S DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS. THE FACT THAT THIS PARTY STRUCTURE HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN REVEALED BY OTHER SOURCES WOULD SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT THE DOCUMENT IS INDEED GENUINE.

4. THE SOVIET UNION IS THE ONLY FOREIGN COUNTRY SPECIFICALLY ALLUDED TO IN THE DOCUMENT; E.G., ONE DUTY OF PARTY MEMBERS IS TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND "AFGHAN-SOVIET FRIENDLY RELATIONS." FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE PDPA'S PURPORTED PRO-SOVIET OUTLOOK IS THE PARTY MEMBER'S STATUTORY DUTY TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN RELATIONS "BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND THE SOCIALIST FRATERNITY. INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S MOVEMENTS, AND PEOPLE'S NATIONAL LIBERATION

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MOVEMENTS OF ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA." MOREOVER THE PAVYY CADRE IS REQUIRED TO "PROPOGATE THE THOUGHTS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM, AND THE IDEA OF PROLETARIAN RATIONALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM AMONG THE MASSES."

5. THEUS, IN TERMS OF IDEOLOGY, STRUCTURE, AND ADHERENCE TO THE PRO-MOSCOW LINE, THE "CONSTITUTION" WOULD LEAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE PDPA'S A PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST TYPE PARTY, REGARDLESS OF TARAKI'S PUBLIC DENIALS. A BELIEVE THAT THE "CONSTITUTION" IS A GENUINE PARTY DOCUMENT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNCERTAIN AS TO WHEN IT WAS PRODUCED. IT MAY BE THE PDPA'S FOUNDING CHARTER, BUT WE ARE FAIRLY CERTAIN IT PRE-DATES THE COUP TWO MONTHS AGO. THE DOCUMENT WAS PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY BY A LONG-TIME AND TRUSTED FRIEND OF AMBASSADOR ELIOT. IRRESPECTIVE OF THE DOCUMENT'S ULTIMATE VALIDITY, WHICH WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH FOR SOMETIME , IT CONSTITUTES ONE MORE PIECE OF INFORMATION TO BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED IN AN EVALUATION OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL NATURE AND ITS TIES WITH ITS "GREAT NORTHERN NEIGHBOR." AMSTUTZ

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